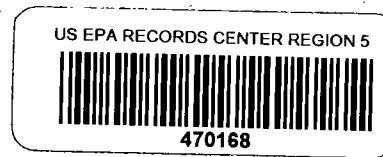


Elizabeth, please see my responses in bold type below.



--- Ron Murawski  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
312-886-2940  
April 4, 2008

OLD AMERICAN ZINC  
FAIRMONT CITY, IL

To: Ron Murawski,  
[murawski.ronald@epa.gov](mailto:murawski.ronald@epa.gov)  
Site: Old American Zinc Plant  
Region: 5  
EPA ID# IL0000034355

In Indianapolis, Indiana a lead smelter operated for decades, polluting a nearby neighborhood. A preliminary assessment by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) established boundaries of a site in need of remediation from the effects of pollution of the smelter. An EPA assessment and agreement with the responsible party resulted in remediation boundaries half that of the original IDEM assessment. Pollution levels of the area no longer in the EPA established remediation areas are similar to those within the remediation area. A group of graduate students at the Indiana University School of Public Affairs is charged with helping the community to develop a community action plan to address the affected areas that remain. To help in this effort, *a group of graduate students at the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs is studying similar Superfund sites across the United States to determine if similar actions were taken at other Superfund sites.*

Your participation in the below questionnaire is much appreciated in furthering the understanding of how Superfund sites are determined and remediated. Please feel free to e-mail ([elwatkin@indiana.edu](mailto:elwatkin@indiana.edu)) or call (317.379-4541) with questions or information. Thank you.

1. *How long have you been the state contact for the Old American Zinc Plant?*

**I have been the U.S. EPA (federal) Remedial Project Manager for the Old American Zinc Plant Site for about 10 years. This Site is a federal enforcement lead Site. Illinois EPA is the support agency. Doyle Wilson is the Illinois EPA State Project Manager for this Site. He may be reached at 217-782-7592.**

2. *Briefly, please describe the status of the clean up at the Old American Zinc Plant site.*

**The potentially responsible party (PRP) contractors recently completed the Remedial Investigation (RI) field work. U.S. EPA will receive the draft RI Report from the PRP contractor in the summer of 2008.**

**In 2002 and 2003, the PRP contractors performed a Removal Action under the oversight of U.S. EPA. As part of the Removal Action, the contractors removed contaminated soil from nearby properties, backfilled the properties with clean soil, and revegetated the properties. The August 2003 Removal Action Report is in the Administrative Record.**

3. *To the best of your knowledge, did your state perform a preliminary assessment of the Coeburn Produce Disposal site prior to EPA involvement?*

**I assume you meant the Old American Zinc Plant Site, and I'm responding accordingly. Illinois EPA performed a "CERCLA Integrated Site Assessment" at the Site in 1994 and produced the report in 1995. The report is in the Administrative Record.**

4. *If so, did your state identify boundaries of an area to remediate?*

**The CERCLA Integrated Site Assessment did not identify boundaries of an area to remediate. However, that report, along with others, identified a 132-acre area that had been used for zinc smelting operations. Additionally, there are nearby properties (residential and other) that had been contaminated from the smelting operations.**

5. *Were there any discrepancies between the state's recommendations of remediation and the EPA Record of Decision?*

**Illinois EPA has not recommended a remedy for this Site. Before U.S. EPA selects a remedy (to be documented in the Record of Decision (ROD)), it will consult with Illinois EPA.**

6. *Do you feel that the EPA remediation effort at the Old American Zinc Plant site fully addressed the pollution issues at this site and no further remediation is needed?*

**Since the ROD has not yet been issued, this Site has not yet been remediated. As noted above, the PRP contractors performed a Removal Action in 2002 and 2003 of properties near the 132-acre area.**

7. *To the best of your knowledge, are you aware of any environmental organizations (national or community) that are involved with the remediation of the Old American Zinc Plant site? If so, please provide the community group name and any available contact information.*

**To my knowledge, there have been no environmental organizations involved with remediation activities for the Site, other than regulatory agencies (such as U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA) and their representatives.**

8. *Is there any additional insight or information you believe would be useful to our research?*

**Based on this questionnaire, it appears that the Old American Zinc Plant Site is not a good Site to use to gather the requested information. Post-construction-completion sites would be better candidates. By starting with the epa.gov website, you should be able to identify post-construction-complete, former smelter sites in Region 5 and in other U.S. EPA Regions.**